

May 14, 1975

Savage's bill about the bees and now we have the one about the birds, so now before anyone else says it, this is the birds and bees Legislature. What I was going to do with the bill, originally, was convert it into a bill to license attorneys. A lot of them are hunters right now and they don't have to have a license, and since this is a bill relating to hunting, I felt that the subject matter was germane but instead of going through all that trouble at this late hour, I decided just to try to kill the bill. Senator Keyes mentioned that they had eaten hot beef sandwiches today, which today I did not eat but anyway I do see a difference between a cow and a bird and it reminds me of something that I heard in school where a little boy was trying to find out what a phenomenon was so his teacher was trying to explain it and couldn't. So she decided to give him an example. She said, do you know what a thistle is? He said, yes. She said, do you know what a bird is? He said, yes. She said, do you know what a cow is? He said, yes. She said, well, if you see a cow sitting on a thistle singing like a bird, that's a phenomenon. So a cow and a bird do have some things that distinguish them from each other. I doubt that Senator Keyes would say that you can get as much to eat off of a dove as you can off a cow, and if he would say that, then he knows less about the barnyard creatures and the forest creatures than I do and I've lived in the city all my life. Senator Schmit has said that he has no problems with the hunters in his part of the country and I know why that is. Somebody mentioned that these hunters come out and they shoot at fence posts, they shoot at cows, things that move and don't move. Well they probably know that Senator Schmit would return their fire so you are not bothered with that and, perhaps, the situation could be evolved in Nebraska where people, instead of hunting animals, would wear identifying clothing and they could hunt each other, and since the taking of the life of anything is not placed on the same basis, if the Legislature says it is all right for people to hunt people, it should be all right. Some people do see moral questions involved in killing animals for sport. I am not saying that it goes as deep as a moral question with me but I do find it difficult to understand how pleasure can be derived from learning the habits of a creature, which creature cannot change its habits and taking advantage of it to be able to kill something, to take its life when it is not harming you, when it doesn't offer that much in the way of food, when you are not poor and need to hunt if for food in the first place, and if there was to be a moving target desired, they have trap shooting, somebody could throw a can up into the air or you could find other things that are moving which are non-living. Now, there was a point I was trying to make for sure...oh, Senator Syas was talking about the ability that it takes to shoot a dove and hit it and he said that his shooting is better than the average person who shoots but I would say, Senator Syas, that if you ability to be on target when shooting at the dove is equal to your ability to be on target when you discuss the issues, then we could make everything living legitimate prey and nothing would be harvested. I am just kidding, Senator Syas. I know you shoot better than that. But in all seriousness, I do